

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this case.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Singh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,239, herein “Singh”) in view of Kazuhiro (Japanese Patent Publication No. 08-255449).

The outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following discussion.

The claims as currently written include affixing a flexible wiring on a face of a head supporting member before bending a load beam of the head supporting member. An exemplary embodiment is shown in Figure 3, where flexible wiring 3 is affixed to a face of head supporting member 1. The load beam of the head supporting member is then bent for gram load adjustment. Thereafter, a magnetic head 2 (shown in Figure 9) is mounted to the head supporting member.

By practicing this method, the following advantages are achieved. First, by affixing the flexible wiring before gram load adjustment, the head supporting member is still planar. Thus, the flexible wiring can be attached to the load beam with high accuracy.¹

Second, the conventional step of flattening the head supporting member after gram load adjustment is avoided. Thus, the mechanical damage to the head supporting member and the flexible member that can occur during this conventional step is avoided.²

Third, exfoliation that can occur at the bent portion of the head supporting member when the flexible wiring is attached after gram load adjustment is avoided.³

¹See e.g. Specification at page 4, lines 20-23.

²See e.g. Specification at page 5, lines 1-5.

³See e.g. Specification at page 5, lines 7-10.

Finally, the supporting mechanism of the head supporting member can be simplified as compared to the conventional process.⁴

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 recites a method of fabricating a magnetic head apparatus comprising:

affixing a flexible wiring on a face of the head supporting member before bending a load beam included in the head supporting member;
bending the load beam; and
mounting a magnetic head to an end portion of the head supporting member.

The outstanding Office Action cites, *inter alia*, column 2, lines 23-27 of Singh as suggesting Claim 1. This portion of Singh states, “Since only a localized region of the suspension is heated, ***the apparatus can be used after the sliders and associated wiring have been mounted on the suspension*** without damaging the slider.” (Emphasis added). However, this portion of Singh clearly states that the slider is mounted to the suspension ***before*** the load beam is bent by the apparatus disclosed by Singh. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited portion of Singh does not teach or suggest “bending the load beam” ***and then*** “mounting a magnetic head to an end portion of the head supporting member,” as recited in Claim 1.

Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2 and 3 dependent therefrom) are believed to be patentable over Singh.

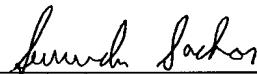
Independent Claim 4 recites similar elements to Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 (and Claims 5 and 6 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Singh for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

⁴See e.g. Specification at page 4, lines 23 and 24.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejection is traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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